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STATUTE GOVERNING GDR TRADE CENTERS

[Comment: The Statute of the DHZs (Deutsche Handelszentralen, German Trade Centers) is taken from the Ministerialblatt der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik (GDR Ministerial Gazette), No 43, 17 November 1952, pages 179-180.]

In accordance with Article 7, Paragraph 3 of the regulation of 6 December 1951 concerning the improvement of the work of the German Trade Centers (Gesetzblatt der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, p 1,145), the following statute for the German Trade Centers, confirmed by the Council of Ministers, is promulgated:

Article 1

1. The German Trade Centers are people-owned wholesale enterprises [functioning] according to the requirements of their respective lines of trade.
2. They come under the jurisdiction of the competent ministry or state secretariat in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1, of the regulation of 6 December 1951.

Article 2

1. The German Trade Centers consist of the central directorates and their branches or of the people-owned wholesale enterprises of the same branch of the economy, existing in any region.
2. The central directorates, the branches, and the wholesale enterprises are legal persons and legally responsible for the public property assigned to them.
3. The seat of each central directorate, branch, and wholesale enterprise is the locality in which its central office is located.

Article 3

The branches and the wholesale enterprises are self-planning and self-managing enterprises of the people-owned sector of the economy. They set up their plan on the basis of the legally established GDR economic plan and work according to the principle of economic accounting.

Article 4

1. The chiefs of the branches and the wholesale enterprises are responsible for the activities of these units and are liable for damage suffered by the enterprises as a result of gross neglect of their duties.
2. The chief is bound by the plan of the branch or the wholesale enterprise and by the directives of the state administrative bodies to which he is subordinate.
3. The chief has a permanent deputy. The provisions of Paragraphs 1 and 2 [above] apply to him as well.

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4. Other employees charged with managerial tasks are authorized to issue directives and are personally responsible within their field of operations. Hence they are liable, to the extent of their responsibilities, for damage suffered by the enterprise as a result of gross neglect of their duties.

5. The chief of a branch and his deputy are appointed and dismissed by the director of the central directorate; the chief of a wholesale enterprise and his deputy are appointed and dismissed by the competent ministry or state secretariat.

6. The chief bookkeeper and his deputy are appointed and dismissed in accordance with applicable standard regulations.

Article 5

1. In legal and nonlegal proceedings, the branch or the wholesale enterprise is represented by the chief, his deputy, and those specifically authorized to represent it.

2. The chief is authorized to act as sole representative and is authorized to sign legally binding statements.

3. The deputy chief and those authorized by the chief are permitted to represent [the unit], provided that two of them always will jointly represent the branch or the wholesale enterprise and will jointly sign legally binding statements.

4. Within the limits of authorizations given them, other employees of the branch or the wholesale enterprise may also act as deputies. Such authorizations may be issued only by the chief.

5. In accordance with applicable regulations, the disposition of financial funds and the conclusion of contracts require the countersignature of the chief bookkeeper or his deputy. The obligation resulting from Paragraph 3 [above] is not affected.

6. The position of each signatory must be attached to each signature. Other attachments are to be omitted.

7. The chief and his deputy are to be entered in the register of the people-owned sector of the economy.

Article 6

1. The existing central directorates are administrative and, in accordance with the tasks assigned them, independently planning and operating organs of the people-owned sector of the economy.

2. As administrative agencies, they must guide, supervise, and control the activities of their branches, as required by the competent ministry or state secretariat.

3. As economic agencies, the central directorates draw up their plan on the basis of the legally established GDR economic plan and operate according to the principle of economic accounting.

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Article 7

1. The provisions concerning the management of branches and wholesale enterprises (Article 4, Paragraphs 1-4) apply to the central directorates if the latter function as economic agencies.

2. The director of the central directorate and his deputy are appointed or dismissed by the competent minister or state secretary.

3. The chief bookkeeper of the central directorate and his deputy are appointed and dismissed in accordance with applicable standard regulations.

Article 8

If the central directorate functions as an economic agency, the appropriate provisions of Article 5, concerning the power of representation and entries into the register of the people-owned sector of the economy, are applicable.

Article 9

Tables of organization for the central directorates, the branches, and the wholesale enterprises are to be drawn up and approved in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 of the regulation of 12 July 1951, concerning the control of tables of organization (Gesetzblatt der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, p 689).

Article 10

Amendments to this statute and its repeal require the consent of the Council of Ministers.

Article 11

1. This statute becomes effective with its promulgation.
2. Simultaneously, all previously valid statutes of the German Trade Centers are repealed.

Berlin, 6 November 1952.

Ministry for Metallurgy and Mining  
Selbmann, Minister

Ministry for Machine Building  
Wunderlich, State Secretary

Ministry of Light Industry  
Konzok, State Secretary

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Schroeder, Minister

Ministry of Health  
Steidle, Minister

State Administration for Supply  
Binz, Administrator

State Secretariat for Coal and Power  
Adler, Main Department Chief

State Secretariat for Chemistry,  
Stones, and Earths  
van Rickelen, State Secretary

State Secretariat for the Food Industry  
Albrecht, State Secretary

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